

Docket No. G2622-908496
Appl. No. 09/539,772
Preliminary Amendment filed with RCE Request

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-47 (Cancelled)

Claims 48 (New): An assessment system comprising:

- a. at least one predefined measurement item used to structure observation and assessment of observable events or phenomena;
- b. means for presenting a subject or operator with said at least one measurement item;
- c. means for recording at least one observable event or phenomenon with said presentation of at least one measurement item and storing the recorded at least one observable event or phenomenon as a track of event data sequenced by a track of address data; and
- d. for each presented measurement item, means for associating the measurement item to at least one portion of the event data in an index database that includes at least one field denoting the measurement item and at least one field denoting address data for the at least one portion of the event data associated with the measurement item.

Claim 49 (New): An assessment system according to claim 48 wherein said means for presenting a subject or operator with at least one measurement item includes a computer having a central processing unit, a storage system, and an output display.

Claim 50 (New): An assessment system according to claim 48 wherein said means for presenting a subject or operator with at least one measurement item includes at least one of a video display, a computer display or a video player.

Claim 51 (New): An assessment system according to claim 49 wherein said output display is selected from the group consisting of a projection display, a computer display, and a video display.

Claim 52 (New): An assessment system according to claim 48 wherein said means for recording includes a digital recorder.

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Claim 53 (New): An assessment system according to claim 48 wherein said means for recording includes an analog recorder that produces an analog recording which is then digitized.

Claim 54 (New): A method for systematically assessing observable events or phenomena, comprising:

- a. presenting a predefined measurement item to a subject or operator, wherein said measurement item is used to structure the observation and assessment of observable events or phenomena;
- b. making a record of at least one observable event or phenomenon associated with said measurement item, said record having a track of event data sequenced by a track of address data; and
- c. generating an index entry in a database linking the predefined measurement item to a portion of the event data record; wherein said index entry comprises a measurement item identifier field indicative of said predefined measurement item, and a field containing address data indicative of an address for the portion of the event data record.

Claim 55 (New): The method according to claim 54 wherein the step of presenting a predefined measurement item to a subject or operator comprises presenting a predefined measurement item on a computer display, a video display or a video player.

Claim 56 (New): The method according to claim 54 wherein the step of presenting a predefined measurement item to a subject comprises displaying the measurement item to an operator, and the operator presenting the measurement item to the subject.

Claim 57 (New): The method according to claim 54 wherein the step of presenting a predefined measurement item to an operator or subject comprises displaying an image on a video display, a computer display or projection.

Claim 58 (New): The method according to claim 54 wherein said record is a digital recording.

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Claim 59 (New): The method according to claim 54 further comprising:
augmenting said database by adding information relating to said at least one observable event or phenomenon to said database without changing the relationship of said address data to said event data.

Claim 60 (New): The method according to claim 54 wherein the step of generating an index entry comprises automatically generating an index entry for each measurement item as the subject or operator proceeds from one measurement item to another.

Claim 61 (New): The assessment system of claim 48 wherein said means for presenting a subject or operator with at least one predefined measurement item additionally comprises means for presenting a subject or operator with a set of predefined measurement items, the set of predefined measurement items containing related measurement items.

Claim 62 (New): The assessment system of claim 61, wherein said set of predefined measurement items is selected from the group consisting of a questionnaire, examination plan, interview schedule, report form, set of directions or established survey.

Claim 63 (New): The assessment system of claim 61 wherein said set of predefined measurement items includes a pre-existing set of predefined measurement items used independently of said assessment system to observe and assess events or phenomena.

Claim 64 (New): The assessment system of claim 61 wherein said means for associating the measurement item to at least one portion of the event data includes means for associating each predefined measurement item in the set of predefined measurement items to at least one portion of the event data.

Claim 65 (New): The assessment system of claim 48, additionally comprising means for creating and storing said at least one predefined measurement item before said means for presenting said measurement item presents said at least one measurement item to a subject or operator.

Claim 66 (New): The assessment system of claim 65, wherein said at least one predefined

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measurement item is a deposition question, and said means for creating and storing said measurement item creates and stores a set of deposition questions.

Claim 67 (New): The assessment system of claim 48, additionally comprising means for accepting input from the operator or subject, said input indicating that the operator or subject is ready for the presentation of another measurement item.

Claim 68 (New): The assessment system of claim 67, wherein said means for accepting input is selected from the group consisting of computer mouse, stylus, keyboard, digital tablet, microphone, touch screen, gaze tracking device, brain electromagnetic activity tracking system, and video sensor.

Claim 69 (New): The assessment system of claim 48, wherein said track of address data comprises a track of time data, and said at least one field denoting address data comprises time track data.

Claim 70 (New): The assessment system of claim 48, additionally comprising means for augmenting said index database by adding information relating to said at least one portion of the event data to said database without changing the association of said measurement item with said at least one portion of the event data.

Claim 71 (New): The method of claim 54, additionally comprising the step of:

accepting input from the operator or subject indicating that the operator or subject is ready for the presentation of another measurement item;

wherein said step of generating an index entry in a database linking the measurement item to a portion of the record of event data automatically occurs upon said input from said operator or subject.

Claim 72 (New): The method of claim 56, wherein the step of presenting a predefined measurement item to a subject further comprises displaying the measurement item to an operator, the operator presenting the measurement item to a subject in an interview, and the operator interacting with the subject in accordance with said measurement item.

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Claim 73 (New): The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of appending address data for a portion of the event data to an existing index entry when the operator or subject returns to a predefined measurement item in the course of assessing the at least one observable event.

Claim 74 (New): The method of claim 54, wherein the track of address data comprises a track of time track data, and the field containing address data indicative of an address for the portion of the event data record includes time track data.

Claim 75 (New): The method of claim 54, wherein said step of presenting at least one predefined measurement item additionally comprises presenting a set of predefined measurement items, the set of predefined measurement items including related measurement items.

Claim 76 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said set of predefined measurement items is selected from the group consisting of a questionnaire, examination plan, interview schedule, report form, set of directions or established survey.

Claim 77 (New): The method of claim 75 wherein said set of predefined measurement items comprises a pre-existing set of predefined measurement items used independently of said method to observe and assess events or phenomena.

Claim 78 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said step of generating an index entry in a database comprises generating an index entry for each measurement item in the set of measurement items.

Claim 79 (New): The method of claim 48, additionally comprising the step of creating and storing said at least one predefined measurement item before said step of presenting said at least one measurement item to a subject or operator.

Claim 80 (New): A computer-readable medium containing instructions that cause a computer to index a recording of at least one observable event in an assessment system, said medium comprising:

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a storage section for storing a digital recording of the at least one observable event, said digital recording having a track of event data sequenced by a track of address data;

a first code section containing instructions that cause the computer to present at least one predefined measurement item to a subject or operator, said at least one measurement item being used to structure the observation and assessment of observable events or phenomena; and

a second code section containing instructions that cause the computer to automatically generate an index entry in a database linking the measurement item to at least one portion of the at least one stored observable event; wherein said index entry comprises a measurement item identifier field indicative of said measurement item, and an address field indicative of an address for the at least one portion of the at least one observable event stored in the track of event data.

Claim 81 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 80, wherein said at least one predefined measurement item comprises a set of pre-existing predefined measurement items, the set of predefined measurement items being used independently of said assessment system to observe and assess events or phenomena.

Claim 82 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 80 additionally comprising a fourth code section containing instructions that cause the computer to accept input from the operator or subject, and define the at least one predefined measurement item according to the input.

Claim 83 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 80 wherein the first code section contains instructions that cause the computer to present at least two predefined measurement items to a subject or operator, and wherein said second code section contains instructions that cause the computer to automatically generate index entries in the database for each measurement item, each entry linking the respective measurement item to at least one portion of the stored at least one observable event.

Claim 84 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 80, additionally comprising a sixth code section containing instructions that cause the computer to digitally record the at least one observable event, and store the digital recording in said storage section.

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Claim 85 (New): An assessment system comprising:

- a. at least one predefined measurement item used to structure assessment observable events or phenomena;
 - b. stored event data of at least one recorded observable event, said at least one observable event occurring simultaneously with a presentation of at least one predefined measurement item, said stored event data being sequenced by a track of address data; and
 - c. an index database including a field indicative of a measurement item and a field indicative of an address in the stored event data for a portion of the stored event data associated with the measurement item;
- wherein an operator reviewing the at least one recorded observable event in the stored event data can create or update an entry in the index database for a measurement item.

Claim 86 (New): The assessment system of claim 85, wherein an operator reviewing the stored event data can update the index database without removing existing index entries associating a predefined measurement item with a portion of the stored event data from the index database.

Claim 87 (New): The assessment system of claim 85, wherein said track of address data comprises time track data, and the field indicative of the address in the stored event data contains time track data.

Claim 88 (New): The assessment system of claim 48 wherein said at least one predefined measurement item additionally comprises a rating scale.

Claim 89 (New): The method of claim 54, additionally comprising the step of playing back the record after the completion of at least one observable event or phenomenon, wherein said index entries are used to control the playback sequence.

Claim 90 (New): The method of claim 89, wherein said index entry additionally includes a field indicative of a type of measurement item and a field indicative of a type of response to a measurement item, and playback sequence is sorted by chronological order, type of measurement item, or type of response to presentation of a measurement item.